

REMARKS

Claims 48-52, 56, 60, 64 and 68 are presented for consideration, with Claims 48, 52, 56, 60, 64 and 68 being independent.

Applicants note with appreciation that Claims 48-52, 56, 60, 64 and 68 are allowed. These claims have been amended to delete the input unit or input step for inputting gradation-value information and position information. Nonetheless, it is submitted that these claims remain allowable.

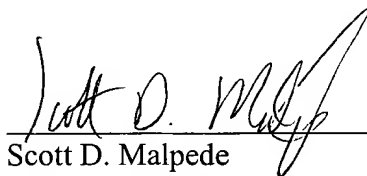
The Examiner sets forth a statement of reasons for allowance beginning on page 21 of the Office Action. In response to this statement, Applicants respectfully wish to point out that Claims 52 and 56 recite a dot pattern table storage unit for storing dot patterns. Additionally, in Claim 56 the dot patterns are generated by dot pattern interpolation means.

Claims 1, 17, 34-47, 78-84 and 90-92 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. Without conceding to the propriety of the rejections, and in order to expedite prosecution, these claims have been cancelled and will be taken up in a divisional application.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Scott D. Malpede", is written over a horizontal line.

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